

# NFPA 1851

## A Fire Department's Perspective



# Orange County Fire Authority

- Irvine, CA
- JPA with 22 cities
- Geographic area of 550 square miles
- 1,072 career fire fighters
- 62 fire stations
- 1.4 mil. residents



# Service Center (SVC)

- Order all PPE and outfit personnel
- Maintain a loaner program
- Perform routine cleaning
- Perform routine inspections
- Perform basic repair





# Service Center (SVC)

- 15 full-time employees
- 1 employee oversees PPE program
- Several other employees assist in cleaning, inspection and repairs
- Training conducted by Lion Apparel on proper inspection and what repairs can be made in-house



# Protective Ensemble Maintenance Program

- Individuals screen PPE
- SVC provide loaner PPE to personnel
- SVC conducts routine cleaning
  - Use extractor & dryer to clean sweat and dirt
- Any PPE contaminated or potentially contaminated with hazardous materials is sent to ISP



# Protective Ensemble Maintenance Program

- SVC performs routine inspection and repair
  - Repair outer shell but not liner
  - Repair small holes
  - Replace worn Velcro, buttons or snaps
- ISP repairs or replaces inner layers and zippers



# Challenges to Conforming with NFPA 1851

- Advanced cleaning, inspection, test procedures, repair, and verification
  - Difficult and costly to train in-house staff
  - Costly to use ISPs for advanced cleaning, inspection, and repair
  - Local ISPs won't perform advanced cleaning for all hazardous materials
- Retirement
  - 10 years





# Why we Don't Follow NFPA 1851

## 1. Historical Information

- Ensembles over 10 years that pass advanced inspection by ISP
- No serious injuries, illnesses, or near miss incidents caused by a PPE failure
- Serious injury, illness, or near miss investigations have shown PPE performed as expected





# Why we Don't Follow NFPA 1851

## 2. NFPA 1851 Committee Structure

- Technical Correlating Committee
- Technical Committee



# Why we Don't Follow NFPA 1851

3. Lack of data to support the requirements written into NFPA 1851



# Why we Don't Follow NFPA 1851

4. Don't feel it's financially responsible to implement NFPA 1851



# Why we Don't Follow NFPA 1851

- Asbestos example
  - Seal Beach Fire
    - Turnouts bagged, tagged, and sent in for Advanced Cleaning
    - ISP cleaned turnouts
    - Certified Industrial Hygienist microvacuum testing
    - Turnouts were contaminated with asbestos after cleaning
- ISPs will not accept turnouts





# Thank You

